

TICKS WANTED

Unengorged FEMALE* paralysis ticks wanted, \$3.50 each.

Deliver to Lismore Vet Clinic

22 Uralba St, Lismore Ph: 6622-0033

Ixodes Holocyclus: Females responsible for Paralysis

Male non toxic



NIMBIN LIMOUSINES



Exclusive transfers & tours
Lux Mercedes Valente 7 pple max

nh

Steve Taylor – 0400-615-288
info@nimbinlimousines.com.au
www.nimbinlimousines.com.au

Nimbin Village Laundry

Brighten Your Day



Under new management
nimbinvillagelaundry@gmail.com

0420-986-560
45 Cullen St, Nimbin

Sunsparks Electrics

Solar Power Professionals



Design, sale and installation
of solar power systems

16 years specialisation in renewables,
grid connect or stand alone power systems

Shannon Lacy

Phone 6679 7167 or Mobile 0418 228 117

sunsparkselectrics@gmail.com
www.sunsparks.com.au

Mr BOBCAT

6689 0044
0427 946 823

- 4-in-1 bucket • trencher • auger • excavator
- 5 tonne spreader • 8 tonne tipper

TREE SHAPE

QUALIFIED & EXPERIENCED ARBORIST / HORTICULTURIST

~PRUNING & REMOVAL OF TREES & PALMS
~WOODCHIPPING ~4WD TIP TRUCK ~BOBCAT
HELPFUL ADVICE

FREE QUOTES. REASONABLE RATES. FULLY INSURED.

66 886 297 / 0428 026 307
treeshape1@gmail.com

Contained in Nimbin Accommodation wins two State business awards

Nimbin's rising star, Contained in Nimbin Accommodation, has had an astounding victory, taking out the gold gong for 'Best New Tourism Business' at the NSW Tourism Awards, and the following night 'Outstanding Start-Up Business' at the NSW Business Awards in Sydney.

Contained in Nimbin Accommodation is a sustainably and eco-certified enterprise built and run by local Nimbin couple, Nicole and Nicolas Lindner.

It offers two private and fully self-contained eco-sensitive cottages situated on a ten-acre self-sufficient permaculture farm, on the banks of the pristine Goolmangar Creek, just a short three-minute drive to the historic and unique village of Nimbin.

"We are so lucky to live in Nimbin," says Nicole. "It's so scenically beautiful,



Nicole Lindner

it's an easy destination to fall in love with, and Contained in Nimbin Accommodation offers the perfect location for travellers to embark on a wonderful journey through Nimbin

and across the beautiful North Coast region."

The prestigious events were both held at the White Bay Ferry Terminal in Rozelle on 8th and 9th November.

Spectacularly, Nicole and Nicolas will now represent Nimbin, the Northern Rivers and NSW as a finalist at the Australian Tourism Awards in Darwin in March 2024 in the category of 'New Tourism Business'.

"We entered the awards hoping to receive judging feedback that perhaps we were on the right track with our business, so these awards have absolutely surpassed our expectations," said Nicole.

"We are absolutely thrilled with our wins and sincerely hope that it will act as a catalyst in driving tourism not only to our village but also across the entire region."

Australia Day award nominations

Nominations for Lismore City Council's 2024 Australia Day Awards are now open.

The Awards are held annually to recognise people who give back to the community through volunteering, community work or who excel in sports or other endeavours.

Lismore City Mayor Steve Krieg said this is a chance to recognise our unsung heroes who put in many hours as volunteers to make our community a great place to live, work and raise a family.



"The Australia Day Awards give us a chance every year to honour those passionate people who

dedicate a large part of their lives to building a stronger, healthier community with no thought of personal gain.

"If you have a friend who works hard for a volunteer group, know a student who is kicking goals in life or admire a person for their work for our community, please nominate them.

"It only takes 5-10 minutes to complete an on-line nomination, so please get on-line before the deadline and nominate today."

To make a nomination, go to: www.lismore.nsw.gov.au

Nominations close on Friday 22nd December.

Categories

- Citizen of the Year
- Aboriginal Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sports person (Senior)
- Sports person (Junior)
- Services in Community (Group)
- Services in Community (Individual)
- Sports Team (Group/Organisation)
- Arts/Culture
- Environment

Happy beekeepers

by Jens Roestel, Black Dog Honey

It is the time of year where one reflects over the past twelve months.

We are so grateful for a wonderful season of honey production, though the year has been an eventful one.

However, what we are most grateful for is the support we have received from our fellow community over the last 12 months.

It is so wonderful that we live in such a community-orientated area that makes small businesses possible, and that we have many talented people and artisans.

So being the time of year that brings many to exchange gifts, please consider choosing a present that supports our local businesses in the area.

In a sense, it is like a gift that gives twice!

Varroa mite

Now, some good news about the bees! The current Varroa response has been changed to a management phase, which means the euthanising of hives in New South Wales has been stopped.

On the downside, it means that the Department of Primary Industry (DPI) has concluded that eradication of the mite is not realistic. In other words, it is here to stay.

Although, not is all grim for our bees. Over the past five decades, there has been an abundance of research on methods to better manage the pest. This is still at the fine-tuning stage and I predict, will remain like this for a while.

Being connected to fellow beekeepers and bee enthusiasts alike, provides a wealth of information that sheds light on various methods.

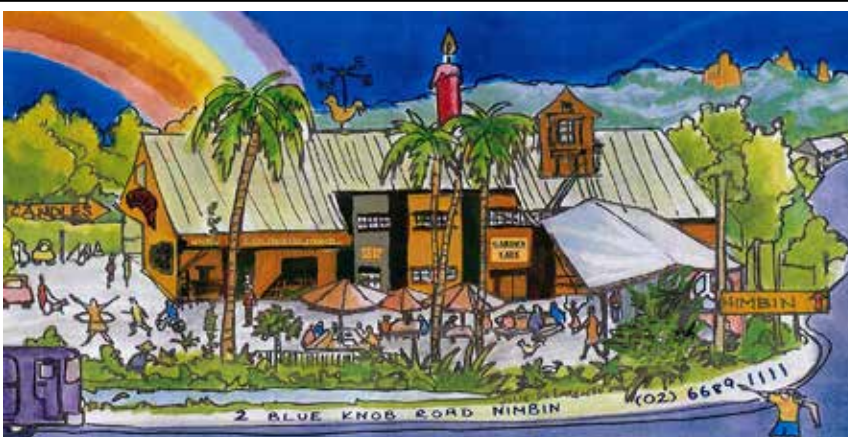
Here at Black Dog Honey, we will always endeavour to choose the most



eco-friendly, efficient, sustainable and humane method of beekeeping.

We wish you all the best, a happy festive season, safe travels and a joyful time with friends and family.

– From Jens, Lisa and Ben



Nimbin Bush Theatre Cafe
From the Garden to the Plate
Open 7 days, 9am-3pm

National Day of Action on housing

by Madeleine Smith

On Saturday 9th December, a 'Housing is a Human Right' National Day of Action will be held across the country.

In Lismore, it will be held at the Quad, 110 Magellan Street from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Public housing tenants, renters, homeless people, unionists and community organisers are demanding real action for housing justice.

The housing crisis is the worst in living memory. It is a humanitarian disaster. More than 640,000 households are under housing stress and are in desperate need of secure housing. Soaring rents and interest rate rises across the country are worsening the crisis.

Increasing numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, elderly women and people in low-paid and



Photo courtesy Lifeline

precarious work are among the fast-growing total of the homeless.

Housing dignity must be delivered to First Nations communities as part of concrete programs that move beyond platitudes and show genuine commitment to delivering justice.

We are taking action across the country because federal and state governments are set to make the situation worse. In Greater Sydney, more than 4,000 public housing units have

been demolished since 2000, and more than 2,000 units are currently under the threat of demolition.

Last September, the Victorian Government announced its plan to demolish all 44 public housing towers across Melbourne, which will displace over 10,000 people.

In the Northern Rivers, nearly two years after the floods, more than 1,000 people are still in temporary accommodation, and just 70 of the eligible 1,100 homes have had a buyback settled.

In the Page Electoral Division, more than 68% of renters were already in rental stress before the last two years of relentless rent increases.

Public housing tenants, renters and community organisers are leading the campaign to save public housing, freeze rents, ban no-grounds evictions and fully fund flood recovery.

Bringing back trains to the Northern Rivers is very possible

by Lydia Kindred

Two North Coast community-based railway companies, the Northern Regional Railway Company Pty Ltd (NRRC) and Northern Rivers Railway Ltd (NRRL), have been working hard for the last three years to bring train services back to our region.

The Casino to Murwillumbah railway service was opened in 1894 and closed in 2004 by the NSW State government.

Our companies are planning to run train services for locals and tourists and to honour the heritage history of this marvellous publicly owned resource.

Despite a push to pull up our tracks to just install a bike trail, we're convinced that the best outcome for Northern Rivers communities is to have both!

Licences were granted this year by UGL and TfNSW to our companies to conduct studies into the condition of our railway line; one licence from Booyong near Bangalow to Yelgun and another from Lismore to Booyong.

These are nearing completion and will give us a true costing of what's required to fix the tracks, to bring train services back. This is the first actual on-the-ground study in the last 20 years.

A quote from NRRC: "The actual costs of renewal of the tracks won't be anywhere near the costs quoted in previous studies."

While the condition of the line is variable, returning it to its original running speeds or better is not an impossible task."

NRRL support dual use of the railway corridor, where feasible, with a bike/walking path beside the tracks.



With the corridor a minimum 32 metres wide, there's room to accommodate both trains and a recreation path, or alternative options for the bike path to diverge elsewhere at some points.

NRRL are excited about the real possibility of gaining tax deductibility soon for donations to the cause. We will keep you posted on that!

We have also surveyed 1,200 locals and we know there'll be great support for our climate-friendly services.

We will run the trains to Mullumbimby via Tyagarah, extending our service from the current Byron Bay solar train, then provide a service up to Bangalow.

Then up to Billinudgel (servicing over 7,000 inhabitants of Ocean Shores, New Brighton, South Golden Beach and Brunswick Heads) and up to Yelgun

Volunteers clearing tracks near Byron Bay

(Splendour, Falls Festivals) and also west to Lismore via Eltham and Bexhill.

We are working hard to supply all residents and visitors with off-road, climate-friendly transport, which is so needed in our region.

Help us to move forward together with this great plan for a win-win 'rail with trail' sustainable future for the Northern Rivers.

For the people, the local economy and the environment, bringing back trains to the Northern Rivers is very possible!

Please show your support for the return of train services by becoming a member, making a donation and/or filling in our survey at: northernriversrail.com.au

Contact: admin@northernriversrail.com.au or phone: 0422-007-724.

HARDY ELECTRICAL & SOLAR

YOUR LOCAL SOLAR SPECIALIST!

- Solar • Batteries
- Maintenance • EV Chargers

1300 748 948

hardysolar.com.au

HO! HO! HO!
KEEP YOUR COOL THIS HOT SEASON!
X-MAS SPECIAL
\$50 PER COUNSELLING SESSION
WITH DR ANTOINETTE ENSBEY
E. MLREMEDIES22@GMAIL.COM
P. 66872511 GO TO:
BYRON HEALING MOTHER LOVE THERAPY

Funky Corner

Jewellery, arts, craft & gifts
100% Hemp garments
ethically sourced
fair & sustainable
Crystals & Opals
1/46 Cullen St., Nimbin

I PAINT HOUSES

NIMBIN & SURROUNDS

RING BEN'S PAINTING:
0409 352 102

SOLAR FREEDOM

Capture the Sun!

Special! - Add Batteries to Any Existing Solar System And Get a Free Panel Clean!

Do you have solar panels yet find your bill is now twice as much as it was last year? The electricity market is broken and retailers have attacked solar users with a double whammy - Slash the amount they pay for your solar energy and increase all the other charges. More pain is on the way - another 20% increase in power prices this year.

Unless you have solar batteries you are facing serious increases in energy costs. 888 Solar Tek have installed hundreds of solar battery systems in the Northern Rivers in the last 8 years. If you have existing solar panels we can easily retrofit solar batteries to store your power for overnight use. Why buy more expensive electricity when you can use more of your free solar power?

Call Vincent now to get a free on-site consultation. Your local Solar Battery and Off Grid Experts

5 kW Hybrid G2 Inverter
5.2 kWh Lynx Battery
\$7,888 Free Panel Clean
Free System Check
10 year warranty on Battery, Inverter and Workmanship

GOODWE

Limited Numbers. Terms and conditions apply

888 Solar Tek
Lic No. 334826C
Ph 02 6688 4480
www.888solartek.com.au

Call Vincent Selleck for a Free Consultation




Relax, unwind and stargaze

Contained In Nimbin Accommodation offers two modern and comfortable cottages in a peaceful location just 3kms from Nimbin at 289 Crofton Road. Contained In Nimbin is a Quality Tourism and Sustainable Tourism Accredited Business. Info and Bookings: www.containedinnimbin.com.au

The Voice of the Alternative Nation



FACE THE MUSIC



TREEFELLAS

Timber Felling
Tree Climbing
BLUE KNOB

Mob. 0429 897 234



Pooh Solutions
Waste water services

Clivus Multrum and Nature Loo Compost Toilets
Council Septic Reports
Installation Servicing and Repairs
0427 897 496 www.poohsolutions.com

Ph: 6689-1206



NIMBIN BUILDING MATERIALS

OPEN Mon-Fri 8am-4pm
Saturday 8am-12 noon.
50 Gungas Road Nimbin NSW 2480

A broad range of construction, landscaping and gardening products at competitive prices

Hardwood	Poly Pipe & Fittings
Decking & Flooring	Structural Steel
Pine Framing	Sand & Gravel
Roofing & Guttering	Cement
Doors & Windows	Plumbing
Cement Sheeting	Stock Feed
Architrave	Granite & Marble
Plywood	Gardening & Plants
LVL's/Smart Beams	Gas Supplier
Hardware	

Delivery Available

www.nimbinbuildingmaterials.com

Benny Zable bows out

by Benny Zable

I have now retired from the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Incorporated (NAFI) committee, and from 2024 I will be living in Lismore to work for the Bentley Blockade 10th anniversary commemorations.

Over the last 50 years, most of my attention was on supporting the Nimbin Aquarius imagineering processes. It has been a great learning circle.

I appreciate all those values passed down from elders of the Wyabal/Widjabul elders, past and present of the Bundjalung Nation that we live on. I publicly thank all those who are still here “keeping the dream alive” (a Katie Cawcutt reminder) in this cruel topsy-turvy world.

It is good to see that NAFI has elected a solid new committee and is maintaining the Katie Cawcutt office in the Bark Hut building next to the Nimbin Community Centre. Thank you Renée English for facilitating the AGM and clearing the office space for fresh creative ideas.

Looking back on 50 years, some of the best things achieved soon after the 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival were: the creation and blossoming of the Co-ordination Co-operative community on Tuntable Falls; Graham Dunstan’s creative pioneering projects building on Vernon Treweek’s Nimbin rooftop murals project; and the fight to save the Nightcap forests, begun in 1979 with the Terania Blockade actions and ended with the Mt Nardi Road Nimbin blockade in 1982, which led to ultimately to the creation of the Nightcap National Park.

The Nimbin Environment Centre was formed during the blockades, and



The Om for World Peace on Remembrance Day

developed soon after to play a major role in promoting environmental stewardship and actions in the area.

This brings me back to the Bentley Blockade, an important victory in the campaign in reversing catastrophic Coal Seam Gas (CSG) developments in our area, nationally and globally.

All those actions were led by the Widjabul/Wyabal elders in our region. Something proud to have been involved with and a witness to ultimate victory.

As with with the Nightcap protests, another Environment Centre was created in Lismore, which was wiped out in the great flood of 2022; a record flood and a reminder our lifestyles need constant questioning, and personal adjustments in the face of runaway climate change.

This brings me to the biggest abuse humans are “mushrooming” at the moment, the growing Military Industrial Complex, the biggest polluter, bringing on catastrophic climate change and the end of life as we

know it on planet Earth.

In the centre of Nimbin, I had painted an exact reproduction of the IMAGINE mosaic from the John Lennon memorial in Central Park NYC. This is a contribution towards fostering a Culture of Peace. Hopefully this space next to the Nimbin war memorial is kept and maintained when I am gone.

This year’s Armistice Day service attracted a lot of people who stayed and participated in the OM for World Peace (another of Katie Cawcutt’s ideas). This is a global initiative that I hope Nimbin people continue to build on and encourage. That is to help people reflect for creating and developing Cultures for Peace everywhere, for the sake of future generations, to bring an end to all wars with these wasteful, harmful ways of resolving conflicts.

*May the longtime sun shine upon you,
all love surround you, and the pure light
within you guide your way on.*

NYE Festival for World Peace

by Jagad Samuel

The 2024 Festival for World Peace will be taking place on the 30th and 31st December 2023.

This two-day festival invites participants to embark on a journey towards personal and collective peace.

Being held locally at Flourish Sanctuary, the festival is set against the rich historical backdrop of Nimbin, known for its legacy of promoting world peace through iconic events like the Aquarius Festival, which celebrated its 50th birthday earlier this year, and marks a continuation of the Nimbin community’s commitment to peace, sustainability, and spiritual exploration.

This festival is a journey, inviting attendees to explore various dimensions of peace while celebrating life and unity. The festival offers a carefully curated program, combining exercises focused on cultivating peace combined with joyful celebrations.

Engage in transformative exercises designed to promote inner harmony,



partake in collective meditations, yoga, communal dancing, revel with DJs and live music performances, community relating with Social Dharma workshops, death work, first nations sessions and then refresh your spirit with invigorating ice baths, river baths, saunas and more.

In alignment with the festival’s vision of creating a harmonious space for all, the Festival for World Peace 2024 is a substance-free event. This stems from a commitment to making the event family-friendly and hopefully promotes mutual respect and shared experiences.

Thanks to Julian Robinson, Manika Raff,



Shivam Rath, and Jagad for their help in shaping a fun and enriching experience for all attendees; the many musicians, performers and facilitators as well as the Widjabul Wia-bal people, the traditional custodians of the land where the festival is being held.

Early bird tickets for the Festival for World Peace will be released this week. Nimbin residents are offered a special discount, underscoring the festival’s commitment to supporting the local community. By booking early, attendees can secure the best price.

The organisers are also offering a limited number of low-cost tickets for individuals actively involved

in helping during the event, further enhancing inclusivity.

Festival-goers have the option to camp under the starlit Nimbin sky or take advantage of on-site accommodation for a more comfortable experience.

To secure your place at this transformative festival, visit: www.flourishsanctuary.com.au/peace If you have any questions, please contact Jagad on 0433-173-508.

The Festival for World Peace in 2024 beckons all those seeking a fun way to spend the New Year weekend while aspiring to personal growth, collective harmony, and a deeper connection to the global community.

WHO DO YOU SERVE?

Reflections on the non-trial of David McBride



by John Jiggins

On Monday, 13th November, I joined the throng of media and David McBride supporters, crowding the courtyard outside the ACT Supreme Court.

It was the start of The Afghan Files prosecution of military whistle-blower David McBride, who was charged with leaking the classified information that formed the basis of the ABC's 2017 *Four Corners* exposé, 'The Afghan Files,' that revealed war crimes committed by Australian special forces in Afghanistan.

These allegations were substantiated by the Brereton Inquiry, which found "credible information" of war crimes committed in Afghanistan by Australian SAS personnel. Despite this, in an Australian replay of the US/UK persecution of Julian Assange, the war criminals are running the persecution, while the whistle-blower is facing five indictments for the leaks, which carry maximum sentences of ten years each.

A roll call of Australian whistle-blowers and politicians were on hand to lend their support. They addressed the assembled media and the McBride supporters, decrying what some described as a 'War on Whistle-blowers' and others call the 'War on Truth.'

Mary Kostakidis, the former SBS news anchor, was the MC for the rally. "It was a sad day for democracy," she said, "because it was democracy that was on trial this day in the ACT Supreme Court."

"There can be no democracy without a strong press and a strong press relies on whistle blowers. Over the next three weeks, the hypocrisy of the Australian government's claims to protect whistle-blowers will be in full view in this court, where the first person to be prosecuted over war crimes in Afghanistan is David McBride who revealed wrongdoing perpetrated in our name," she said.

"McBride fulfilled his duty as a lawyer to uphold the law and to report serious crime. Only when it was apparent that nothing was going to be done about it, did he blow the whistle. The level of public condemnation for this unjust prosecution was enormous," she said.

An important question most of the speakers grappled with was: Why is a prosecution of someone like McBride, who is seen by many as a hero of Truth, going on?

Former Senator Rex Patrick condemned Anthony Albanese and Mark Dreyfus, blaming them for sending McBride, a whistle-blower, to trial, declaring: "Mark Dreyfus has the power under the Judiciary Act to stop this. He can stop this prosecution. Currently, he's hiding behind a coward shield by saying that he can only exercise that power in exceptional circumstances. That is not what the law says! The Parliament has granted him that power to deal with situations which are wrong with prosecutions that are not in the public interest."

Like Rex Patrick, many of the speakers

condemned the Albanese government for not stopping the trial.

Jeff Morris, who blew the whistle on the misconduct of the Commonwealth Bank's financial planning in 2008 and has been a powerful advocate for a whistle-blower protection agency and a compensation scheme for whistle-blowers, warned the government against the War on Whistle-blowers, declaring: "I am going to use the C-word that isn't used by polite people in Canberra: corruption. When the Albanese government chose to go to war with whistle-blowers, chose to prosecute whistle-blowers – and they are not just doing it once, they are doing it twice, with Richard Boyle as well – there is a pattern."

"Whistle-blowers are the antidote to corruption. In fact, from my experience with useless regulators, they are about the only antidote to corruption in this country. So when the Albanese government chooses to go to war with whistle-blowers and prosecute them, it's choosing to embrace corruption. It's choosing corruption over integrity and truth," Morris said.

Troy Stolz blew the whistle on gambling industry lobby group, Clubs NSW, for failing to comply with anti-money laundering financing rules and was subjected to a court-ordered gag by the gambling industry lobby group. He took a marginally more nuanced view of this example of government perfidy.

"I think the numbers here today send a clear message to the government what a disgrace they are. The Albanese government, to their disadvantage, inherited this mess from the Liberal government. Using Jeff's dirty C word – 'criminals' in this instance – the Albanese government could have dropped these charges earlier on and said, 'Well, the Liberals started that; this is wrong, we'll drop it.' So, I'm going to add another C word to this equation – collusion," Stolz said.

"We now have a situation in Parliament where we've seen Liberals and Labor voting down motions (to drop the charges against McBride, and Tax Office whistle-blower Richard Boyle) from Andrew Wilkie and the Independents; teaming up together, the duopoly, to keep it between the two and continue. It's an absolute disgrace," Stolz said.

Bernard Collaery, a former ACT Attorney General and ALP politician who faced prosecution and imprisonment under the Coalition government, not because he was a whistle-blower, but because he was the lawyer of a whistle-blower – likened Australia under the coalition government to France after WW2 when the country had to deal with the issue of collaborators. The coalition was not a government, he asserted. It was an occupation of our country by a gang of villains.

"We had an occupation in this country, and we are still suffering the wounds of occupation. It's not just weakness and the timidity of the Albanese government. It's the overflow of occupation," Collaery said.

"And who were the main collaborations?"



They are over across the lake in the bureaucracy, and they include all the mates appointed to the tribunals by the corrupt government. Now what has failed to happen, is that the national security clique across the lake have remained in place. As Professor James Curran says, the entire skill set of the coalition, of the occupation, are still directing our policies in relation to China," Collaery said.

"We are here in the overflow of the occupation. There is something wrong with the Labor Party at the moment. Something seriously wrong, and we need to support the right people there; what we need is to continue the fight all the way through David [McBride]'s prosecution. It's all the result of the occupation of that gang. I am very happy to be with you. I am very happy to not be in jail myself," Collaery said.

The Australian Strategic and Policy Institute (ASPI) illustrates what Collaery called 'the occupation.' On 29th February 2022, 12 days before the Liberal Government went into care-taker mode prior to the 2022 Election, Peter Dutton appointed new board members to ASPI.

Justin Bassi, whose previous job was chief of staff to LNP Foreign Minister Marise Payne, became CEO of ASPI. Before that, Bassi had worked in Malcolm Turnbull's office and before that, for LNP Attorney-General George Brandis.

As well as appointing this ex-Coalition staffer to head of ASPI, Dutton also appointed former LNP Ministers John Anderson and Michael Keenan to the board of ASPI. The democratic thing to do would have been to allow the incoming government to appoint the board, but Peter Dutton was concerned with putting his people in place, in occupation. Collaery implied this was widespread.

The final speaker was David McBride, a big man with silvery hair and his trademark white glasses, wearing the uniform of the accused, a white shirt and a fine blue coat, accompanied by his therapy dog, Jake. The organisers had bought 200 whistles for his supporters to blow, and the cacophony of cheering, and applause, overlaid by the chorus of 200 whistles, reached a crescendo as he prepared to address his supporters.

"Just a few words. Thank you everybody. You are part of my family. Today I serve my country. And the question I have for you, Anthony Albanese is, 'Who do you serve?'"

New Year's Eve
Family Celebration !

Nimbin Community Centre
11am-5pm Nimbin Markets
6pm-9pm Live Music and Dinner
nimbinmarkets@gmail.com

LISMORE FARMERS
MARKET

@ The Showgrounds
8 - 11:30 AM SATURDAYS

No market on 30th December

Channon Craft Market Inc.

Next Market
10th
December

9am – 3pm

Coronation Park,
The Channon

Enquiries: 6688-6433

Nimbin
Farmer's
Market

Wednesdays 3 - 6 pm

NIMBIN ORGANIC
Food Co-op

Fresh Certified Organic
& Local Spray Free Produce

Organic Groceries, Treats
& Speciality Foods

Member & Volunteer Discounts
Great Value in Organics

LISMORE ORGANIC
MARKET

Lismore Showground

EVERY TUESDAY 7.30 - 11AM

Clean ♥ Wholesome ♥ Affordable


www.organicproducers.org.au
lom@organicproducers.org.au

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DISTRIBUTE
THE GOODTIMES FROM YOUR BUSINESS

Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

Nimbin Natural Caskets


Locally Made from Local Timbers by Blow & Ins & Freaks



0415 679426
ENQ. CUSTOM MADE

TRIBAL MAGIC

Alternative Department Store



Come and see what the Nimbin Spirit has created
74 Cullen St, Nimbin. Open: 10am - 6.30pm

LUPA

Lawn & Garden

Mowing & Gardening
Northern Rivers - All Property Sizes
Call Tristan 0410 819 075
lupalawnandgarden@gmail.com

Nimbin Bakery

52 Cullen Street

- Nimbin's own Aquarius Loaf baked fresh daily
- Sourdough bread and rolls including white
- A range of spelt breads baked daily
- Huge range of pies and pastries, including vegetarian varieties
- Salad rolls, sandwiches and hamburgers made fresh all day
- Quality Botero coffee served all day, every day
- Loads of cakes, slices and treats
- Order your birthday and special occasion cakes

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY at 6am
Phone 6689 1769

The Voice of the Alternative Nation
NIM-FM
102.3
FACE THE MUSIC
www.nimfm.org

In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

It's December already!
Where did the year go?

For many of us, the festive season is a time to relax and catch up with family and friends and have an all-round good time, but it can also be a time of stress and anxiety and loneliness for others.

If it all gets on top of you, reach out and talk to someone, it really can help.

Annual Community Xmas Lunch

It's on Friday 22nd December at Nimbin Town Hall, featuring yummy Xmas fare for all and Santa with gifts for kids aged 12 years and under. Doors open at midday. Santa is expected to arrive at 1.30pm.

NNIC Xmas Closure Dates

NNIC including 7 Sibley Street will be closed from Saturday 23rd December and will re-open two weeks later on Monday 8th January.

The Centrelink Agency will also be closed from Saturday 23rd December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January.

The Recovery Support Service will also be closed, but the team will be monitoring their phones (except for public holidays).

If you need help or support while we are closed:

Kids Helpline 1800 55

1800: free, private and confidential, telephone and online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25.

Lifeline 13 11 14: crisis support for people feeling sad, lonely, suicidal or anxious.

1800 Respect 1800 737

732: domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support.

Suicide Call Back Service

1300 659 467: free telephone counselling 24/7 for people feeling suicidal, worried about someone, bereaved by suicide or supporting suicidal clients.

Mental Health Line 1800 011

511: A 24-hour service across NSW to connect people to the right care or service.

7 Sibley Street workshops

Steph is taking a well-earned break in December and there will be no workshops until 2024.

Woo Hoo it's Friyay weekly Youth BBQ is also finished for this year.

We need more helpers to resume it in 2024. If you can help contact: sibley@nnic.org.au

Flood Recovery

Need help? Still struggling? Need a bushfire plan?

NNIC's Recovery Support Service staff are here to help. Contact the service via email on: nimbinrss@nnic.org.au or call or text 0488-144-647.

Our Recovery Support Service team can also help you to prepare your Bushfire Plan if you haven't already done so. For tips and templates on preparing a Bushfire Plan, see: <https://www.myfireplan.com.au>

Heatwaves

Hot weather can affect everyone, but older people, babies and young children, pregnant women, people with existing medical conditions, outdoor workers, socially isolated people and people who are homeless are at greater risk.

Climate change is resulting in more hot days and more intense heatwaves.

Now more than ever, it is important to know the risks of heat, who is at risk, how to prepare, and how to protect ourselves and others.

Check out the NSW Beat the Heat website for more info.

Nimbin Women's Dinner

After a break for the last 4 years due to Covid and then the floods, we are aiming to get the Nimbin Women's Dinner back up and happening again to celebrate International Women's Day in March 2024.

We are looking for women for the organising group and for fun and entertaining acts to perform on the night.

If you are interested in



NNIC Soup Kitchen Community Xmas Lunch
Town Hall
Friday 22nd December 2023
12.00 midday
Santa Arrives 1.30 pm

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

We assist frail aged people, NDIS participants and carers to stay living at home and connect socially.



All NACRS support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, Covid-safe trained, insured and locally based.

SOCIAL CENTRE with Veranda – Monday-Friday 10am-2pm. Drop in for a cuppa, access support services, info and computers.

DEVICE ADVICE – Wednesdays 9.30am-1pm. Seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues.

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

- Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea, 10.30am-1pm. Tea/coffee, conversation, music and snacks, weekly \$5
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm at various rural cafes, self-funded plus donation to NACRS
- Wise Ones at Koonorigan Hall/Dunoon 4th Monday, 11.30am-1.30pm, bring a plate to share
- Bus outings – 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Scenic drives, cafes for morning tea & lunch (you pay), bookings essential, fees apply.

Phone **6689-1709** or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, the rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre.
www.nacrs.com.au

helping to organise or performing at the Women's

Dinner, contact us at: admin@nnic.org.au

Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments, phone 6630-0400.

Women's health nurse services

Confidential service, checks, advice, general health information. Phone 6688-1400 for appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

Nurse practitioner clinic

Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 21st December.

Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – leave a message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and syringe program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a community Registered Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week, free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Monthly meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the CWA room. New members are most welcome.



by Scott Sledge, president

Decent rainfall is keeping the countryside green and flowers abound in our Nimbin area, but the climate is unstable, and I don't think we are safe from violent storms despite a good start to the season.

Road repairs are still on-going after the floods nearly two years ago, and the access to Lismore just south of the village may re-open as a two-way road before Christmas. I am appalled that the priority for disaster relief money has been logging tracks, not general roadways.

Nature Conservation Council of NSW CEO Jacqui Mumford said, *"With fire season well and truly here, NCC has today urged members of the NSW Parliament to prioritise safety and security by ending the fire risk being caused by native forest logging."*

"Across NSW, state forest is being logged to the edge of towns. This is dramatically increasing the bushfire risk these communities face and should be stopped as a matter of priority."

"All the evidence we have shows that disturbed, younger forests that have been logged are more likely to burn, and do so more intensely. In contrast, older, undisturbed forests are shadier, wetter, and have taller trees leading them to be less likely to burn, and when they do they burn slower and cooler."

"We are calling on members of the NSW Parliament to take an important step to protect the community and the environment from the risk of bushfires by ending native forest logging."

NEC is a member organisation of the NCC and fully supports that call.

Documentary films

On 25th November, David Bradbury screened his latest documentary films at Lismore's Star Court theatre.

The Road to War asks whose brilliant idea is driving Australia into an expensive and dangerous expansion of naval armament by agreeing to purchase nuclear-powered submarines that won't be delivered for 20 years or more.

Why do we want to make an enemy of our major trading partner? Will we

continue to follow the USA into most of its overseas battles? Are we the Lackey Country?

Bradbury's other film, *Gondwana Going?* describes the on-going logging that is stripping Australia of its precious native forests with their climate-saving gift of removing excess carbon from the atmosphere and storing it safely.

Many of our best forest advocates were interviewed on the film, including Nan Nicholson, Dr Rob Kooyman, Prof David Lindenmeyer and Dailan Pugh. I highly recommend this film.

Rising Tide protest

Led by Bob Brown, hundreds of climate activists (reported to be more than 1000) blockaded the world's busiest coal loading port at Newcastle on the last weekend in November.

The peaceful protest was soured by more than 100 arrests after the 30 hours allowed by the permit: I think it is likely Court will go easy on these activists. We have seen a spate of forest protectors in NSW Courts get released with no fines or convictions.

Logging in State Forests

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) of NSW has been active in trying to stop logging of public forests with some success, including at Coopernook SF.

Logging was stopped there because Forestry Corps had failed to conduct the required Broad Area Habitat searches and the EPA found 20 Greater Glider den trees, stating "It is very important that glider den trees are identified and protected prior to harvest."

The FC admitted to taking 17 trees out of an exclusion area in Coopernook SF and were fined \$500,000, which we the taxpayers will pay because we subsidise the company.

North-East Forest Alliance

NEFA has been especially active and supported by groups such as NEC and Northern Rivers Guardians in urging politicians to protect our native forests, as is the public wish.

The NSW government has been



reluctant to stop its subsidy for logging and even to fulfil its pre-election pledge to establish a Great Koala National Park (GKNP) close to Coffs Harbour.

Environment Minister Penny Sharpe has announced the formation of an advisory committee, which is a step forward, but she also told loggers there would be "no moratorium" on logging except for the temporary protection of 8,500ha out of 20,000ha of Koala Hubs in State Forests.

With loggers operating with no regard for our forests' health there may be little left for the koalas if and when a National Park is finally declared.

On 25th March 2023, the Minns Labor government was elected in NSW with pro-forest conservation supporters holding a significant balance-of-power in the Upper House. Penny Sharpe became the Environment Minister and the dominance of the National Party was broken.

In April the Blueprint Institute released a report entitled *'Branching out: Exploring land use options for the Native Forests of NSW'*. The report concluded there is no economic benefit to continued logging when forests are of more value for tourism and carbon sequestration.

On 19th September the Federal Greens released their plan – *'Protecting Native Forests, Protecting the Climate'* – an integrated approach of immediate action on the climate and ecological crises by ending native forest logging and banking the carbon benefits.

NSW Greens MLC Sue Higginson had a raft of government documents relating to the GKNP released. NEFA's initial review of EPA documents showed that since at least May 2023 the EPA attempted to negotiate changes to protocols to improve protections for Koalas within the GKNP, only to have these

rejected by Forestry Corp.

Ballina Greens MP Tamara Smith and NEFA wrote to Premier Minns in October asking him to implement the proposed changes for all forests, along with Koala Hubs.

On 16th October, Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek announced her proposed changes to national environmental laws have been delayed by at least another year, meaning NEFA's federal case against automatic extension of Regional Forests Agreements is of increased importance.

The loggers have consistently violated the rules of the RFAs and NEFA believes their roll-over without review for another 20 years will devastate our NSW forests. We expect a Court decision by the end of this year.

In October, NEFA made a submission to the NSW Climate Change Bill, advocating use of forests to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere, noting that protecting 500,000ha of loggable State Forests in NSW (north from the Hunter River) would allow the recovering forests to sequester in the order of 3.2 to 8.6 million tonnes of CO₂ per annum.

On 13th November, Dr Sophie Scamps, federal independent Member for Mackellar (with assistance from WWF), produced a Forests Pledge calling for an end to industrial native forest logging.

It was launched that day with backing by a variety of ex-Environment Ministers and signed by all federal teal independents, senator David Pocock, key independent MPs in the NSW parliament, most state and federal Greens politicians and more than 30 environment and civil society groups.

Court fails to protect local forests

On 20th November 2023 in the Land and Environment Court, Justice Pritchard handed down her decision on NEFA vs Forestry Corporation of NSW, giving NEFA standing to bring the proceedings but ruling out NEFA's expert evidence and the necessity of individual harvesting {logging} plans to consider Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management.

Forestry NSW is a government-owned corporation that has plans to resume logging in State Forests that

were severely damaged in the recent bushfires. Animals that survived in unburned pockets between Casino and Grafton may ultimately spread to re-inhabit burnt forest habitat, but not if the small trees there are clear-felled.

NEFA spokesperson Dailan Pugh said, "We are disappointed we lost our legal challenge to the Forestry Corporation's logging of burnt Koala habitat in Braemar and Myrtle State Forests, which leaves it up to the NSW Government to decide whether they will intervene to save this nationally important Koala population from extinction.

"If logging now resumes, it will be devastating for the future of Koalas and the 23 other threatened species inhabiting these forests, including the Southern Greater Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, Rufous Bettong, Masked Owl and Squirrel Glider."

The energy transition is on

According to journalist Katharine Murphy, most of the time politics feels incremental. But every now and again, a big thing happens suddenly. Federal Energy Minister Chris Bowen made it clear this week that the government intends to transform the fundamentals of Australia's energy grid.

Murphy wrote: *"Bowen unveiled a radical expansion of a capacity scheme intended to reshape the national electricity market. Coal is coming out, renewables moving in and taxpayers will underwrite the transformation."*

"This is the biggest strategic shift Australians have seen in this policy area for a decade or more. Australia's energy sector said 'praise be'."

"Predictably, the shadow climate minister, Ted O'Brien, clutched his pearls and declared: 'This risks locking Australia into a path from which there may be no return.' Well, yes. That is the point. The transition is on." – *The Guardian Australia* 24/11/23

End of Year activities

The Nimbin Enviro crew will celebrate the end of 2023 with a BYO drinks picnic from 5 to 7pm on Wednesday 13th December. All welcome! Simply show up at the Nimbin Pool in Peace Park.

And the Northern Rivers Guardians will hold its AGM at 11am on Saturday 16th December, at the CWA Hall in Murwillumbah, with a shared-plate social to follow.

Fact-checking debunks Timber NSW's claims

by members of the Kyogle Environment Group

If you happened to attend one the local country shows recently you may have noticed or been approached by a representative from Timber NSW.

Timber NSW has long promoted the idea that timber is the ultimate renewable building material, emphasising the sustainability of their practices.

Upon closer examination, of the "facts" presented on their website, the accuracy must be challenged.

Fact 1. *Timber is the ultimate renewable building material.*

Timber NSW asserts that timber is the ultimate renewable building material, suggesting that its use contributes positively to environmental sustainability. While it is true that wood



is a renewable resource, the way it is harvested, and the associated ecological consequences must be carefully considered.

The logging industry often employs practices, which involve the removal of entire sections of native forests.

This approach not only leads to the loss of biodiversity but also results in significant carbon emissions due to the decomposition of felled trees.

Additionally, the long time it takes for newly planted trees to reach maturity raises questions about the

immediate sustainability of timber as a building material.

Fact 2. *Every time a tree is harvested, we grow another in its place.*

Timber NSW's claim that every tree harvested from a regrowth forest is replaced with a new one does not tell the full story. While the industry may engage in replanting initiatives, the ecological impact extends beyond simple numerical replacement.

Regrowth forests, although replanted, may not fully replicate the complexity and biodiversity of the original ecosystem. The replacement trees often belong to a limited number of species, leading to a loss of ecological diversity.

Further, the process of regeneration takes time, and during this period, the ecosystem will experience disruptions in terms of soil

erosion, water quality, and habitat loss.

Fact 3. *New research reveals koala occupancy levels are not influenced by timber harvesting.*

Timber NSW downplays the impact of timber harvesting on koala occupancy levels, asserting that logging practices do not significantly affect these iconic Australian marsupials now listed as endangered.

The 2023 Independent review of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016)* states that "native forest logging is damaging forest ecosystems and the habitat of native species."

Timber NSW must not have received the memo that there is a direct correlation between habitat destruction due to logging and a decline in koala populations.

Clear-felling and habitat fragmentation resulting from

logging activities disrupt the koala's natural habitat and make them more susceptible to stress, disease, and predation.

To claim that timber harvesting has no substantial impact on koala occupancy is overlooking the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the delicate balance required for species survival.

Fact 4. *Only 0.3% of native forests are harvested annually.*

While Timber NSW emphasises the minimal impact of logging by stating that only 0.3% of native forests are harvested annually, this statistic is misleading.

It fails to account for the cumulative impact of historical logging and the long-term consequences of habitat fragmentation.

Even small-scale logging has profound effects on local ecosystems and biodiversity. The focus must be on phasing out logging as it leads to

irreversible damage to ecosystems.

Timber NSW's claims regarding the environmental benefits of timber harvesting are an exercise in green washing and deserve critical scrutiny.

While timber can be a renewable resource, the industry's practices and their ecological consequences must be carefully examined.

Balancing the demand for timber with the need to preserve biodiversity and protect fragile ecosystems is crucial for a truly sustainable future.

It is essential to question and reevaluate the claims made by the timber industry to ensure responsible and environmentally conscious resource management.

What Andrew Hurford, Chair of Timber NSW stated on ABC's *Landline*: "Koalas live in trees, you're cutting down trees therefore you are bad for koalas" is accurate.

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin GoodTimes.

Experts?

Aidan Ricketts in his article ‘Navigating disinformation, uncertainty, individualism and conspiracy’ (p.5 NGT Nov) sounded convincing... until that ‘Hey-but’ moment. For all governments over years have used propaganda as disinformation to persuade their populations to fight in wars, believe in imaginary deities, accept lies, corruption and even murder (from Julius Caesar to Mikhail Lesin) as ‘normal’ for the political game.

Sure, the cosmos, geoscientific interactions and even human ones involve uncertainty... but are times anymore uncertain now than during the 1950s? Nuclear Annihilation Threat, Vietnam, the Commie Domino Effect, the Cold War, long-haired Hippies and their ‘Degenerate Beatles music’? No.

And we mightn’t be born or die alone... but we’re certainly all born, and will die, as individuals – not conjoined to our biological parents, which is pretty much the same thing – no matter how many individuals in the production chain go to make a car... or a university. As for ‘experts’, they promoted smoking as non-carcinogenic and even healthy! And don’t forget thalidomide, DDT, Iraq’s ‘Weapons Of Mass Destruction’, 911 and completely evaporated aeroplanes and so-called terrorists on them, who were later found to be alive in other countries... and none being Afghani! (15 Saudi, 2 Arab Emirates, 1 Egyptian, 1 Lebanese) with the Afghanistan war then costing

46 Australian soldiers’ lives! Today’s ‘experts’, even climate ones, are so entwined in the system that employs them or funds their research, that to unpick their vested interest takes more time researching than most of us have. Simply ordering anyone to STFU and ‘believe them’ is fascist. And lastly, we don’t have to keep re-questioning known and eternal truth: the Periodic Table of Elements, gravity, the speed of light, what makes up the visible and electromagnetic radiation spectrum, mathematics, etcetera. Sorry Aidan, I’m sure you believe what you write is truthful, but truth is singular. Its versions are mistruths. And your readers get to decide which is which.

Azan Mann
Evans Head

I’m not telling you to shut up

Normally I’d ignore arrogance, but when Aiden Ricketts told us to STFU and listen to scientists (NGT Nov), I had to respond.

The scientific method is based partly on questioning theories. The science is never settled and always open to scrutiny. Imagine if we told Copernicus to STFU. We’d still believe we were the centre of the universe.

This sounds more like the Spanish Inquisition than science. I don’t care how many scientists signed a letter in group-think. Once upon a time every scientist in the world agreed the sun revolved around the earth.

Look up: *ourworldindata.org* and you will find that in general the severity and frequency of disasters around the globe, such as bushfires, cyclones, floods and rainfall, was greater 50 to 150 years ago. Or check out: *nasa.gov* where there are dozens of articles saying Antarctica has been getting colder every year since records began over 40 years ago. The sea ice is growing yearly.

Meanwhile the Arctic is getting warmer. The north Polar ice has no land mass and you don’t need a law degree to know that floating



My blurb on the cartoon

With so much influence and power, wouldn’t you want to spread awareness on humanitarian and environmental causes sometimes?

Not just what is a ‘hot topic’? Or your luxury holidays? Or just hot selfies? Not just selling your own brand? The brand of you?

I’m so tired of folks who only show up for the photo opportunity or maybe a month of very temporary support. Almost two years on, and there’s so much wrong with the flood recovery in the Northern Rivers region...

However! Amazing grassroots people (who don’t advertise themselves), they keep going, they keep pushing through and they keep bringing community together.

Thank you to these unnamed, sometimes uncelebrated community members. They’re the *real* celebrities in my eyes.

Holly English
Suffolk Park

ice does not raise sea levels when it melts. Most of the ice is underwater and water expands when it is frozen. Polar bear populations have exploded, contrary to climate alarmists saying they are going extinct. True, glaciers are melting in Greenland and Antarctica, but this is due to underground volcanic activity, not human activity.

NOAA, NASA and CSIRO all state that CO₂ is causing the planet to green. There is 20% more vegetation than 40 years ago due to CO₂, despite our unsustainable logging practices. And this extra vegetation has cooled the planer by 0.25 degrees C. CO₂ is greening deserts. It may come as a shock to some but CO₂ is necessary for life. In fact plants need 150ppm CO₂ or they die. We were dangerously close to that a hundred years ago. 2000ppm is conducive to plant and animal life.

More CO₂ is producing higher yielding crops and the data shows that temperature pushes up CO₂ levels by releasing it from the oceans and not the other way around. And let’s not forget the worst greenhouse gas by far – water vapour. Yes, clouds! Heaven forbid they’ll outlaw rain next.

The Great Barrier Reef

has been in the best health on record for quite a few years. The Queensland government refuses to make any announcement about it, but *The Guardian* and *ABC* have been reporting on it. They famously sacked Dr Ridd from James Cook Uni for saying as much. In fact, scientists keep their mouths shut because they are all threatened with job loss if they speak out.

According to Al Gore, we’re supposed to be under water by now, but when I go to the Gold Coast the water level looks the same as when I was a kid 60 years ago. *climateataglance.com* is well worth a look.

Sue Higginson (NGT Oct) says 2023 is the hottest year in 100,000 years, which is an irrelevant statement because the interglacial peak temperature was about 140,000 years ago and about 8 degrees C hotter than now. We were in an ice age 100,000 years ago.

This is just the IPCC playing with the data to paint a false picture. Also Jupiter has been opposite the sun during 2023, which pulls the sun much closer to earth, raising our temperature as much as 2 degrees C. Not due to human activity.

We had in the past the Medieval warm period, the

Roman warm period and the Minoan warm period, all of which were hotter than it is now. These were times of abundance, which furthered the advance of civilisations. The Romans were growing grapes in northern Britain and oranges in Scotland.

There are many charts on the internet showing the earth’s temperatures and CO₂ levels going back hundreds of millions of years. They show that the climate always changes radically and is never static.

Science is about debating and proving theories, not silencing anyone who disagrees with your idea. Instead of telling us to STFU and listen Aidan, we should converse and maybe learn something.

Just letting everyone know that the emperor has no clothes.

Keith Haydock
Upper Horseshoe Creek

Thanks Aidan

Thanks *Nimbin GoodTimes* and Aidan Ricketts for an excellent article in the November 2023 edition.

Cecily McGee
Mullumbimby

Military madness

Today there are ten wars raging around the world, there are also more than 30 armed conflicts, too small to be called a war but big enough to kill or maim men, women and children, large enough to displace people, to destroy lives, homes and devastate minds, vicious and mindless enough to tear limbs from bodies, take away all hope, all joy, entire futures and create lasting hate.

At the same time there are millions more dying from starvation and curable diseases, thousands dying from exposure because they cannot find shelter, the world is on the brink of extinction because of climate change and in the Middle East, Israel commits atrocities and war crimes that the western world refuses to condemn.

Every day and every night we hear politicians around the world referring to themselves as leaders, standing in that preposterous pose, shaking hands and giving an asinine smile to the camera. We see them walking up the stairs to aircraft, when the rest of us use an airbridge, before turning to wave at imaginary crowds like ‘pop stars’.

They rush off across the world in their passenger jets, jets designed to carry hundreds of people, and attend lavish lunches and dinners while the world burns.

They have attended the Conference of the Parties (COPs) for almost three decades, a junket that has grown exponentially and now

includes more officials from all over the world, a growing number representing civil society, ever more media, ad hoc negotiating groups and the bureau of the COPs itself.

They drive from hotels to venues, have their lavish meals in massive halls with heating/cooling and lit by hundreds of lights, then fly home in their large jets as the world moves ever closer to midnight, and once again nothing happens, nothing changes.

While thinking about the wars and how quickly we brought charges of war crimes against Putin while ignoring all the horrors brought about by Netanyahu over many years and the West’s defence of him with their idiotic “Israel has the right to ‘defend’ itself” mantra, which it does, but the slaughter of 14,000 civilians including 5,000 children is not defending itself, I wondered about the financial and pollution cost of war, because the human cost is unbearable.

The ‘leaders’ discuss climate change, but seem to ignore the fact that the world’s militaries produce 5.5% of greenhouse gases excluding the destruction they cause, the cost and use of resources to re-build what they destroyed or the cost of manufacturing and firing of those appalling weapons.

America’s military produces more greenhouse gases, excluding the destruction it causes, than many countries including Sweden, Portugal and Denmark. In 2022, America spent 877 billion U.S. dollars on its military, 40% of the world’s total expenditure of 2.2 trillion US dollars.

You can only be mystified by such madness, we can only imagine what we could do if that 2.2 trillion dollars was used for good instead of evil, and wonder what the world would be like if we had, in an apathetic moment, handed the reins to a group of narcissistic idiots, halfwits, the criminally insane and the weak.

It saddens me to realise we have always done just that.

Peter Brooker
Nimbin

Waste Incinerator threat to farming

An Industrial Waste Incinerator, if built in Casino or any other town on the Far North Coast, is a direct existential threat to the Beef Cattle industry, the Casino Meat Works, the Dairy Industry, Norco and food crops growers throughout the region.

The NSW Chief Scientist has said these Waste Incinerators should not be built anywhere near where agricultural is being practised. According to

About us

Managing editor Bob Dooley
Assistant editor Sue Stock
Sub-editor Kitty van Vuuren
Layout Peter Chaplin, Andy Gough, Bob Dooley
Photographers Sue Stock, Jagad, Chibo
Proofreaders, Cath, Lynne, Kitty, Sue
Distributors Coralie, Chibo, Peter, Gordon, Bob, PAC, Rob & Lisa, Linda, Jock, Rosie, Trevor

The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.



Photo: Sue Stock

The Clunatics choir performing at the Remembering and Healing Music For Peace concert in Lismore.

Richmond Valley Council's Mayor, the project is the brainchild of National party stalwart John Barilaro. There are vast fortunes to be made by certain individuals and foreign companies in such a venture, but like Coal Seam Gas mining, at terrible cost to other existing industries and the wider Community.

So what to make of Lismore City Council's decision to privatise its waste collection service; A service that actually makes a profit, and employs local people? Well, we have heard from Councillors Ekins, Guise, Bird and Cook who forthrightly have expressed their thoughts and concerns about the privatisation of Lismore's rubbish collection, and the secrecy by which it is being done.

When, if ever, are we the ratepayers going to hear from Mayor Krieg and his secretive fellow travellers as to why a) they want the debate hidden behind closed doors, and b) what their reasons are for privatising the rubbish collection.

Without clarity and transparency the community can be forgiven for thinking that there is a hidden agenda; i.e. the proposed Industrial Waste Incinerator.

Simon Chance
Richmond Hill

MPs' and Councillors' attitudes

Urbenville residents are facing a 43% compound rate rise which then eventually translates to 106% over 2 years due to incompetent financial management at Tenterfield Shire Council.

The TSC Mayor on Radio 4WK, "Oh I don't know what all the fuss is, it's only

around \$13.50 pw." Hello, that's \$700 PA in the first year.

At a meeting about the rate rise she advises it's the 'Depreciation.' Hello Mayor, depreciation is a non-cash item!

This advice given by one of the attendees followed by a GF, which is deserved because all she wanted to talk about was the water supply improvements to hide the incompetence.

Kevin Hogan when confronted by an Aged Pensioner protesting the 'assets test' and 'the cut in pension' if one lives with a partner, and why doesn't he apply the same conditions to his own salary.: "Oh well you have a health card" is his reply. Bread and dripping sangers is the overture.

Janelle Saffin when being advised of a need for a rise in the council rates rebate for the aged pensioner and given a summary of council rate rises over the last 12 years with no rise in the rebate: "Oh its terrible". End of story. Isn't this the MP who advertises she 'Gets things done'? Can this be reported as false and misleading advertising?

Barnaby Joyce when confronted about the Aged Pension discrimination and issues mentioned above: "Run, Run I know I can Run."

An Urbenville girl from the Githabul, Jemima, blitzes the HSC. She keeps away from drugs, alcohol and crime, spending her time studying and living a healthy lifestyle. Someone all Urbenville, Woodenbong and everywhere else can be proud of. Accepted by Sydney and NSW Universities

Law Schools. The cost of accommodation is crippling her enrolment. Linda Burney is approached for advice: Any grants available Linda? Hello Linda did you get the emails? Hello are you there Linda? Where are you Linda?

Crikey... someone needs a voice here!

Claire DeEllae
Urbenville

Tick stress

I feel distressed and frustrated when I hear of dogs and cats dying, or their human friends needing to spend huge amounts of money to save them, from tick bite.

We live in an area, where many years ago those who ran the Apothecary in Nimbin took it upon themselves to have a tick remedy scientifically created for the ticks of the Northern Rivers. And I personally know that if used correctly, the homeopathic for ticks, called Ixodes, works like a charm in saving animals from death and humans from a hospital visit.

I say used correctly because, unfortunately, the excellent results from homeopathics depend much on whether the human using them is following the instructions to the letter. Haphazard use often brings no result, so many are inclined to think that homeopathics are just another woo woo magic created by hippie witches. And big pharma doesn't like, or promote them, because apart from being a vibrational medicine that assists the body to heal itself, they are as cheap as chips to buy.

I personally have brought two cats and two dogs back from death with Ixodes.

One cat was already paralysed and the other had four swollen paralysis ticks on his throat. His eyes were rolling in his head and he was yowling his distress to the others.

One dog was already paralysed and the other was staggering and breathing with difficulty.

True, the exercise needed to bring them back involved a diligent few hours, but the return of the life to the furry and the money saved, (or the lack of money that meant they would have surely died) was worth the effort.

As to finding and killing the ticks? Which at times isn't easy. Frontline spray, if rubbed all over the furry will kill any hidden ticks in about thirty seconds. Rid, or Aeroguard dabbed on a tick's bum with a cotton bud will do the same. Ticktox from the chemist will freeze or at least stun the tick to let go.

Yes, I know, that most I have just mentioned are a chemical poison (rolling of the eyes on that one) and yes the tick probably does expel more juice as it is dying. Nevertheless, the chances of your mate living to sniff around, roll in cow shit and look at you with a body language and eyes that say, "I love you, no matter what," are greatly increased, if one then administers the Ixodes, properly.

I personally think that these days, ticks have become so dangerously powerful, because humans, me included, are inclined to give their pets a flea and tick repellent monthly, or use tick collars. The jury is still out on that one and I wonder if over time, the effects of an imbibed repellent shortens the animal's life. For that reason I am suspicious of imbibed repellents that are supposed to last three or six months, because we are inclined to be a tad lazy.

Nevertheless, giving an animal no protection is a huge gamble, when the ticks, as with all nature, are strengthening their position of survival as best they can.

When buying Ixodes, make sure to ask for an instruction sheet, because the administration and times of dosage are precise.

Tonia Haynes
Nimbin

Hemlocks Books & Coffee

107 River Street, Woodburn

A great place to read a book, drink a coffee and seek virtue. Book orders welcome

0458-251-942 hemlockbooks@yandex.com

NIMBIN HABERDASHERY

TUE - FRI 10 - 4 SAT 10 - 12

SUE COOK (02) 66891466
0428 800 171

HANDMADE GOODS
MENDING/ALTERATIONS (SOME)
BEADS ZIPPERS BUTTONS
MATERIAL (HUGE INDIGENOUS RANGE)
COTTONS FABRIC DYES CHARMS
WOOL (COME CHECK OUT THE SHED)

IT MIGHT BE SMALL, BUT IT STILL GETS NOTICED!

For a limited time, you can buy this space for only \$35.
Email: nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com

BE SEEN IN 16,000 COPIES MONTHLY

NIMBIN LAW Solicitors, Barristers & Conveyancers



Highly competitive rates
Extensive experience in many areas, including:

50C Cullen St.
Nimbin 2480
(at rear)
Ph: 02 6689-1003

• Conveyancing, Property & Family Law
• Wills, Estates, Probate

Web: www.nimbinlaw.com.au
Email: nimlaw@spains.com.au

NIMBIN VALLEY TREE SERVICES



- Professional
- Tree Removals
- Tree Surgery
- Wood Chipping
- Mulch Sales
- Free Quotes
- Fully Insured

0492 910 060

nimbinvalleytreeservices.com.au

DIGWISE EARTHWORKS

0403-721-876

brett@digwise.com.au

www.digwise.com.au

- Rural roads & driveways
- Dam building & clean outs
- Wastewater systems
- House & shed cuts
- Underground services
- Horse arenas
- Turf prep
- Trenching and drainage
- Stump grinding
- 3 x excavators
- Posi tracks (bobcats)
- 2 x graders

- Rollers
- Water truck
- Tippers
- Float and more